

Scott Novak, My Other Better Half

In my mind, my relationship with Scott Novak spanned 60 years. One of the Paul Bunyan-like tall tales he enjoyed spinning was his role in bringing A Hard Day's Night to the Dowagiac theater in 1964.

Richard Phillipson and I stood on our seats straining to see over a boiling sea of screaming girls. As I'm doing the math, he would have been a toddler, but his mom did take tickets, so who knows?

Anyway, it makes a good story, like his quote that the Beatles would have been big if only they had a sax player like the Dave Clark Five.

He starred in Smokescreen, the

quips, quotes and qulunkers I compiled to entertain the newsroom in the fun era of Tab-bat baseball.

We all know Scott as a legendary sports editor for an unsurpassed 40 years, 1984-2024, but he was my work wife (according to Carol) for three decades, a devoted dad to Kirsten and an accomplished cook.

As well as my concert sidekick and his Tigers tag-along for countless adventures.

As in any good marriage, there was



Eby

give and take. I grudgingly indulged his fondness for cats and country/Christmas music, stringing holiday lights on his desk around Labor Day.

I goaded his grumpy side, telling him to go cover something without a ball, like the equestrian team or cheerleading. He responded by embracing NASCAR and auto racing.

He was a true-blue fire station Dalmatian. Whenever a call came, day or night, he always answered the bell. Fires, wrecks, homicides, storms.

I felt bad on 9/11 because I happened to be on vacation, on my way to the Cleveland Rock Hall. All the extra coverage terrorism attacks de-

mand got dumped in his lap.

The summer of '88 before I became a dad I all but lived in the Silver Hawks press box, running into John Fogerty one memorable night. Writing game stories convinced me sportswriting is harder than he made it look.

Thanks to Scott, my fantasy of going in the clubhouse, press box and on the field at Tiger Stadium was fulfilled.

I interviewed Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker, met Ernie Harwell, jockeyed for position with Mitch Albom at Frank Tanana's locker. I took pictures on the Notre Dame sidelines

hoping not to be trampled.

We shared the 1987 South Bend Special Olympics, where stars lurked around every corner. Barbara Mandrell, Whitney and Cissy Houston, Susan Saint James, Marvin Hamlisch, Caroline Kennedy, Maria Shriver, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Don Johnson, John Denver, Frank Gifford, Oprah Winfrey.

We cheated death twice on I-94 seeing concerts, from Madonna, Foreigner and Pat Benatar to the Bangles, the Smithereens and Elvis Costello. He even knew the other

See HALF, Page A8

Edwardsburg celebrates new iron filtration plant

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg Village Council received a long-awaited announcement at their regular monthly meeting on Monday, informing them that the new iron filtration plant was online as of 10am that morning.

The mood among all present was jovial and celebratory. The three-year journey to bring cleaner water to the residents of the village reached the milestone after a variety of challenges and delays due to supply chain problems, COVID-19, and regulatory delays.

According to the Department of Public Works, the system is "working very well." Residents should expect lingering iron for at least six months, as it will take time to clean up all lines in the system now that the plant is operational. The council was presented with five bottles, each displaying water from a phase in the clean-up process and the byproducts from the cleaning of the water tower. There will be crews in Edwardsburg working on decommissioning the old filter plant, working on emptying the old tower and removing test site pipes from properties around the village.

Village President Dennis Peak expressed his gratitude to village staff and Frank Williams, representing Peerless Midwest, for their dedication to the project.

A representative from the Edwardsburg Boy Scout Troop 593 spoke to the council, expressing the desire for a group within the troop to once again host a Memorial Day Festival at Gunn Park in 2025. The event this year used the park and pavilion and included features such as vendors and a bounce house. Though no official action was taken, the council expressed support and gratitude for the event and made a variety of suggestions, including increased promotion.

See PLANT, Page A8



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS



"When Scott was on the sideline, whether it be Brandywine, Niles, Dowagiac, or Buchanan, you knew it was a big deal. It was like John Madden calling a football game or Dicky V at a hoops game, you knew it was a big deal."

— Michael Morrison

NOVAK REMEMBERED FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

By RICH CAINS
Publisher, Leader Publications

With the passing of our longtime columnist and sports editor, Scott Novak, there is an emptiness in locker rooms, media booths and along the sidelines in southwest Michigan this week. On Wednesday, Scott succumbed to the complications of suffering a heart attack in August and just like the many athletes he so often wrote about in the Niles Daily Star and Dowagiac Daily News over a span of 42 years, he played through the pain and gave it his all to the end.

Scott's professional passion was high school athletics, and he made it his mantra with Leader Publications llc., parent company of the Star and Daily News, to make sure every student athlete had his/her photo or name referenced in the



Cains

See IMPACT, Page A7



6 54708 09550 1

Former GOP Rep. Fred Upton endorses Harris for President over Trump

STAFF REPORT

GRAND RAPIDS — Former U.S. Rep. Fred Upton has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for President over Donald Trump.

"I have never before voted for a Democrat for president, and I honestly never thought I would," Upton said during his press conference Thursday. "But she's a strong, committed public



Upton

servant. She's running to put people together, strengthen our economy, and protect our fundamental freedoms," Upton said. "We certainly don't agree on every policy, that's for sure. But I know that Harris has the best interests of the American people at heart, and I know that she embodies that kind of leadership that we need in the Oval Office to get things done."

Upton was first elected congressman in the 1986 election, when he defeated Mark Siljander, who had ousted Upton's mentor, U.S. Rep.

David Stockman. Upton represented southwest Michigan in Congress for 36 years until his retirement in 2022. He was one of just 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot.

For Upton, Trump's actions and behavior prove he is unfit to serve as president.

"Time and time again respected senior national Republicans have urged our former president to focus on governing rather than personal attacks, mistruths and continued

false 2020 election claims," Upton said. "Instead of heeding that advice, we see unhinged behavior not acceptable in most forums almost daily."

According to Upton, Harris would make a better leader for the country than Trump.

"True leaders take responsibility," He said. "They tell the truth. They put their duty before personal greed and ambition. True leaders treat people with respect, even when those folks disagree with them. Trump does none of that."

OBITUARIES

Daniel Baigorria
Alma Mullins
Robert Carlos Varney
Nathaniel Bedford
Christina Athans
Lyndon Furst
Scott Novak

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Let the crazy political-sign-stealing season begin! I can't believe people actually do this."

A6



A2



Scott Novak:
A local hero

B1



FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

“Let the crazy political-sign-stealing season begin! I can’t believe people actually do this.”

“Go Lions! This is our season, baby!!!!”

“45 minutes of music and dance at Trump’s campaign speech. Imagine if Kamala had done that. What would Fox News have said? I’m surprised lightning didn’t strike during Ave Maria.”

“Kamala raised a billion dollars for her campaign. A billion dollars buys a lot of computers, books, pens, pencils, protractors, erasers and lunches for our school children.”

“The Arnold Palmer public comments by Trump were so out-of-line as were the expletives he uttered in front of an audience with youngsters.”

“Councilman Michael Thompson votes NO for supporting small businesses, park enhancement, Apple Festival funding, Community concerts and most special events that attract visitors to our community. Fourth Ward needs someone who cares!”

“Be generous this holiday season. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and it would be nice for everyone to start setting aside a few food items for a soup kitchen. Buying a few toys for families you know are struggling would be a great Christmas gift as well.”

“Apparently the war between Russia and the Germans never ended. Once again, the US is getting pulled deeper and deeper into these wars that seem to have no ending. We need peace now.”

“Consider your vote carefully. Policy means little if you can’t trust the person who is speaking. Vote with your heart or your head, but vote for the person least likely to over promise and under-deliver.”

“There are lots of people among us today who are struggling with depression, loneliness and drug/ alcohol addiction. Finding them help will be a blessing to you as well.”

WEATHER

SATURDAY



Sunny
58° 33°

SUNDAY



Sunny
59° 38°

MONDAY



Partly Cloudy
65° 54°

TUESDAY



Partly Cloudy
76° 62°

WEDNESDAY



30% Chance Rain Showers
76° 53°

THURSDAY



Rain
61° 41°

MEET THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR NILES CITY COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

NILES — Listed below are Q&As with candidates for Niles City Council who are running for four open seats in the Nov. 5 primary election.

Georgia Boggs, the longest-serving member of the city council, is running for re-election to the city council to represent the first ward for a seventh term.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

I am dedicated to making the City of Niles a better place.

What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the city council?

To collaborate closely with community members, ensuring that the City of Niles remains a place where everyone feels proud to call it home.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position on the Niles City Council?

I have dedicated my life to serving the Niles Community through education, church stewardship, and local organizations, advocating for what is right and ensuring that our community serves everyone effectively.



Boggs

Jamie Bennett, a quality control chemist, is running for election to the City Council to represent the first ward.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

I love my community. I feel I have the right skill set to help our community be the best it can be.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

I plan to make city management decisions which benefit all of Niles. My hope is to engage residents of Ward 1 to become more active in city government. Many don't realize most of the engagement of our city government is by city employees. The desires and goals of those two groups don't always match. To change that requires more engagement from residents.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

I am a working class mom trying to raise my family. As a scientist, I have strong research and organizational skills. I'm a fast learner. I work wonderfully with coworkers, clients, and suppliers from a mixture of backgrounds. I developed strong listening skills. I belong to the Niles



Bennett

Planning Commission and the FSJAV. I don't just stay here. I live in our community at our library book clubs, restaurants, businesses, parks, and events.

Sheila Koebel, owner of the Underground Laugh Lounge and The Study, is running for election to the City Council to represent the second ward.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

I feel that much like a marriage, we must work together. We need to communicate, appreciate the similarities, respect the differences, and in the process, have a sense of humor and work together to achieve goals that are best for our community.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

I will be the voice for WARD 2 to keep progress moving forward and having the communication lines open so that people feel they have a contact that will listen to them and be a part of the solution and not part of the problem.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

My husband and I are both from Niles and recently purchased the old Carnegie Library and we have worked hard to transform it to a place for people to visit, laugh, relax and make memories. We have generated revenue and brought people to our community that would have never visited Niles.

We are active in our community with non-profits and other businesses working TOGETHER to make our small space in this world a better place.



Koebel

Josiah Bliss, a diesel technician, is running for election to the City Council to represent the second ward. Bliss is the nephew of fourth ward councilmember Michael Thompson.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

My goal is to serve my community.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

There are many streets and sidewalks that need attention. Even fire hydrants are out of service. I want to see that the money the city has been given is put to good use.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

Growing up in a Baptist Christian home, community service was always an

important teaching. I am a hardworking average Joe who simply wants to see Niles recognize the voice of the people.

Kenneth Thompson, a construction worker, is running for election to the City Council to represent the third ward. Thompson is the brother of fourth ward councilmember Michael Thompson.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

As an almost lifetime resident of Niles, I believe I can represent the values and expectations of our city's community. In today's world, a sense of stability is needed and I believe I can provide this quality.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

Funding for city roads and sidewalks have continued to be reduced each year. I believe this should change and I will work with the other council members to ensure this happens.

There is also a shortage of housing in Niles. By making a few changes to the city codes, we could reduce the cost of renting, increase the number of available properties and make it easier for renters to find housing in Niles.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

I am a graduate of Northern Michigan University, a local business owner and a church trustee. I have had many years of experience working with my local community in many positive ways. I believe these experiences will make me a great candidate to represent the citizens of Niles.

Charlie McAfee, who has worked as a public servant on and off since 1972 at both the state and local levels, is running for re-election to the city council to represent the third ward for a fourth term.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

I am running for reelection because I have a continuous track record of empowering and encouraging and building personal relationships with individuals and families to help realize their potential for, and in this community.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

I hope it is always said that I was a staunch supporting voice for the community, always putting the constituent needs, and opinions above my own

What makes you the most qualified



McAfee



Bliss

See COUNCIL, Page A4



Get Fit, Stay Fit

The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.

• Balance, Stretch & Stability • Cardio Challenge • H.I.L.I.T. • S.E.A.T. • Tai Chi • Yoga



(800) 323-0390 | (269) 445-8110
www.CassCOA.org
facebook.com/CassCOA

Lowe Center
60525 Decatur Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047



In Loving Memory



Don A. Welch - Donnie Jr.
Feb. 28, 1967-Oct. 25, 1995
Donnie, you are with your Dad now and God too!
I am sad and blue without both of you too!
If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane,
I would walk right up to Heaven and bring you both home again.
I love and miss you both very much.

Donald A. Welch
July 29, 1939-July 9, 2024
Love always & forever,
Mom, Daughter Misha, Granddaughter Heaven Lou and Grandson Yamari Allen



Looking for a new pharmacy?
We make transfers easy!

MAKE CASSOPOLIS FAMILY CLINIC NETWORK
YOUR HEALTHCARE HOME.





Our Family. Caring For Yours.
www.cassfamilyclinic.org



Visit us on social media and on our website for updates and more information
Cassopolis Family Clinic Network is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Beckwith Theatre prepares for ‘Miracle on South Division Street’ production

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Beckwith Theatre Company is gearing up for its final production of the season.

The company will be presenting “Miracle on South Division Street,” a play by Tom Dudzick.

Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9 and 2 p.m. Nov. 3 and 10 at Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave, Dowagiac. Tickets are available at \$15 apiece.

Directed by Max and Ordeana Sala and starring Toy True, Jennifer Shoemaker, J-Fiah Reeves and Jessica Shaffer, “Miracle on South Division Street” is a light comedy centered around the Nowak family, a family of four living amidst the urban rubble of Buffalo, NY’s East Side. The neighborhood may be depressed, but not Clara, the family matriarch portrayed by. She happily runs her soup kitchen and tends to the family heirloom – a twenty-foot shrine to the Blessed Mother. This neighborhood beacon of faith commemorates the day in 1942 when the Blessed Virgin Mary materialized in her father’s barbershop. Daughter Ruth intends to create a one-woman play about the sacred event, but the entire family’s faith is shaken to the core when a deathbed confession causes the family legend to unravel.

“I don’t direct much, this the third or fourth play that we’ve directed,” Sala said. “We’ve been on stage a lot over the course of 40 years or so. For a small group of people, we’ve got a pretty good cast – they they work hard. I’ve been pleased with where we are, I’m looking forward to it. It’s turned out exactly as I



imagined it.”

True portrays Clara in her first theatrical performance in more than 40 years. It’s a role she has enjoyed bringing to life.

“This is my Very first role as an older woman,” she said. “I guess I had to age before I could get back into theater/ I was always the ingénue – it’s been 40 years but it feels good. Max is a wonderful director, a natural. I was always excited, I watched him on stage a lot and I was always wanting to do something with him. It has turned out pretty great that way.”

Reeves, a student at Andrews University, will be making his Beckwith Theater debut as Clara’s son. Reeves has been a part of productions at the South Bend Civic Theatre and has enjoyed the Beckwith experience.

“It’s probably the smallest cast that I’ve worked with while doing theater out here and I really liked it because it’s been really focused. I feel like it’s been easier to get to know people because it’s just the four of us. It’s been really fun – this is the first play I’ve done in a modern setting, which has been pretty cool too.”

Shaffer, who portrays Ruth, has appeared in several plays over the years and said that the family atmosphere is what keeps her coming back.

“It’s hard to keep coming back to a place when you feel unwelcome,” she said. “Whenever you get here and you get into a show, you automatically become family and they treat you as such. It’s amazing.”

“It just feels very much like home,” Reeves added. “Being in South Bend and doing that has been really cool but this feels different inviting

my friends to this because they will be looking you in the eye, looking at me. I like it; it’s been a nice theater to work with.”

When the curtain rises next Friday, Sala hopes the audience enjoys the show and can relate to what the characters are experiencing.

“What we would like to do is for the hour and a half or so that they’re here for the play that that they get entertained so that they leave feeling good,” Sala said. Even though it takes place on Christmas Eve, it’s not first and foremost a Christmas story. Whether it’s a comedy, a drama, a mystery, the group of supporters that come to the Beckwith count on being entertained. They know that they’re going to get some good stuff up there. I think we will be able to continue giving them their money’s worth.”

Robert Clayton
PLASTERING & DRYWALL

- Fast Dependable Service
- Clean Quality Work
- Finish and Repair
- Water Damage Specialist

269-695-7621
4060 W. Bertrand • Niles, MI

30+ Years Experience

Celebrate a life

CLARK CHAPEL
405 Center St, Dowagiac
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com

Wagner
FAMILY FUNERALS

burials • cremations
Only you can understand your loss...
...we care enough to try.

Connelly Chapel
Cassopolis
269.445.2435

Pobocik Chapel
Three Oaks
269.756.3831
wagnercares.com

Having Trouble Seeing at Night?
Come See Us for Headlight Restoration

M-SI SOUTH, DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN
269-782-2728

"Collision Repairs Are Our Business"
Body and Frame Repair *Insurance Work Welcome*

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS 7 DAYS A WEEK

GREEN STEM HALLOWEEN SALE

SPENT \$100 GET \$15 OFF
OCTOBER 30TH - NOVEMBER 3RD

- FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2020
- LARGEST CANNABIS SELECTION IN MICHIANA
- VOTED BEST CANNABIS PROVIDER SINCE 2021
- ALL FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS RECEIVE 15% OFF
- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 8AM TO 9:45PM

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST *AGES 21 AND UP ONLY* *VALID ID IS REQUIRED*

FREE GIFT FOR THE FIRST 150 CUSTOMERS
WEDNESDAY 10/30 THRU SUNDAY 11/03

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR FULL MENU

1140 SOUTH 11TH ST. NILES MICHIGAN
ORDER ONLINE AT GREENSTEMMI.COM

ELECT AL DIBRITO

A PROVEN LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADER & PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONAL WHO WILL:

- Establish a countywide Safe Streets Task Force.
- Develop a Mental Health Crisis Response Team and a safe Medical Clearance Process.
- Improve department moral and community image.
- STOP wasteful spending and review specialty units.

AL DIBRITO
For Berrien County Sheriff

YOUR INDEPENDENT NON-PARTISAN CHOICE

A proven law enforcement leader & public safety professional

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT AL DIBRITO FOR BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF, P.O. BOX 723, ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE ELECTION OF 2024

It was a honor to represent the citizens of southwestern Michigan for 16 years as their State Representative. I ran on the Republican ticket, but once elected my goal was to listen to all citizens and work in the legislature to solve my constituent's problems. That took caucus work and compromise and many times bipartisan work for the best results for Michigan and the citizens in my district.

However politics and the Republican Party has changed in the 21st century. The party seems to have lost its platform roots of less government, controlled spending, good education and a strong foreign policy doing the best for all. It seems the party now follows the changing ideas of a single person.

Normally southwestern Michigan would not elect a candidate if their record was stifing customers in several bankruptcies, defrauding students with a fake university or having trouble with the law drawing many indictments and felony convictions, or alleged in sexual assaults.

In addition having racial bias and misrepresenting facts would not be qualities of getting elected in our area.

Our election this year in 2024 will be close.

One candidate promises to take us backwards and hurt our economy by putting tariffs on all imports. Expert economists estimate that it will cost average Americans \$4000 additional per year and it will drive up inflation while significantly increasing the national debt. Other random policies not paid for are here today and forgotten tomorrow.

However the younger candidate promises several new and different policies to help with housing shortages, child care needs, and starting business tax credits to help stimulate the economy. Also, a significant tax break for middle class families is planned. It seems to me that the younger candidate more closely represents the needs of southwestern Michigan. I hope you will consider taking America and the world on a new path of hope for all.

Please join me and vote KAMALA HARRIS for new leadership.

It's close, so vote KAMALA HARRIS and after the votes are counted, then let's all support the new USA President for a unified America.

Glenn Oxender
White Pigeon
Former MI State Representative and educator

Time to vote for those who honor our Veterans

Editor,

Our nation's veterans have served and protected us. It is our responsibility to elect a President who honors, respects, and supports our Veterans.

Donald Trump has a history of disparaging the intelligence and actions of service members, both alive and dead.

Trump lacks any understanding of patriotism, service, and sacrifice. One indication of this is his contempt for the late Senator John McCain, who was a North Vietnamese POW for 5 years. In 2015, Trump said this about Senator McCain: "He's not a war hero; I like people who weren't captured." When Senator McCain died, Trump said: "We're not going to support that loser's funeral"

In 2018, Trump canceled a visit to an American WWI Cemetery near Paris. He indicated it wasn't important to honor our war dead. "Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers." Trump referred to the more than 1,800 marines who died at Belleau Wood as "suckers" for getting killed.

In August of this year, Trump claimed that the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which he had awarded to one of his major campaign donors in 2018, is "better" than the Congressional Medal of Honor, because "everyone who gets the Congressional Medal, they're soldiers." "They're either in very bad shape or they're dead."

In September, ten retired top U.S. military officials endorsed Kamala Harris, saying that Trump is "a danger to our national security and democracy" and citing Trump's comments disparaging members of the military.

In stark contrast to Trump, Kamala Harris has consistently honored and supported our veterans. In 2022, the Biden/Harris administration signed legislation that opened the door for VA care to some 3.5 million veterans exposed to Toxic contamination. The legislation also triggered dental and long-term care for Veterans

I am a 20-yr Army Veteran. I believe it is extremely important for our nation to elect a President who honors and supports our Veterans. Kamala Harris is the only candidate who meets this requirement.

Ken Peterson
MAJ U.S. Army (Ret.)
Buchanan

In support of Trump

When you vote for someone, you're not entering a relationship with them. Their personality really doesn't matter as they will never have a conversation with you. Rather, you vote for someone based on the policies they will implement to make your lives better. This isn't about emotions. This is about logic.

I will proudly be voting for Donald Trump. I am not canonizing him for sainthood. I am not looking for a marriage partner. I am also not looking for the person the media and celebrities fawn over. I am looking for someone who has a plan for our country and a track record of achieving results. I am looking for someone who can sit across the table with some of our fiercest enemies, look them directly in their eyes, and they respect and fear him. That person is Donald J. Trump.

Shelly Witous,
Vandalia

NEWS

LMC named one of America's top community colleges

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has earned national recognition as one of the top community colleges in the US and the best in Michigan, according to Smart Asset's 2024 Best Community Colleges in the U.S study.

This recognition highlights LMC's commitment to academic excellence, student success, affordability, and its positive impact on the community.

Smart Asset, a leading financial technology company, analyzed 616 two-year community colleges that offer associate degrees and have at least 500 full-time students enrolled. The rankings were



assigned based on 2022-23 school year data collected by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. The analysis was based on three key metrics:

- Student-to-Faculty Ratio: LMC's student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1 reflects the college's commitment to providing personalized attention and a supportive learning environment.
- Retention Rate: LMC

had a full-time student retention rate of 79%, highlighting the college's dedication to creating an environment where students feel supported, engaged, and motivated.

- Cost of Tuition and Fees: With a strong focus on affordability, Lake Michigan College not only offers affordable tuition, but has focused on making higher education accessible to all.

"Lake Michigan College

is proud to be ranked first in Michigan, and among the top community colleges in the country," said LMC President Dr. Trevor Kubatzke. "It highlights the work we are doing to support outstanding experiences for our students and to drive student success. It's a proud moment for our students, faculty, staff, donors, and the taxpayers of our district who support the College."

COUNCIL

Continued from page A2

candidate for this position?

Throughout my three terms as a city councilmember, I have tried to serve as a voice for my constituents, refusing to let my personal political or religious beliefs interfere in my quest to make Niles an exceptional place to live.

Joel Rogers, a toolmaker and machinist, is running for election to the City Council to represent the fourth ward.

Why do you want to be on the city council?

To get a true representative of the 4th ward and Niles city. Something that I feel is often lost in government these days.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

To reach out and engage the 4th ward residents and provide assistance to their needs. Streets are a priority.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

I am a 30-plus year city resident and lifetime Berrien County resident. I was always chosen to be a leader, from high school, college, and the workplace. I am a problem solver, and I have engaged city councilmen and city employees in the past when important issues arose.

Rogers

Jessica Nelson, VP Global Business Operations at Fluent Commerce, is running for election to the City Council to represent the fourth ward. Nelson previously represented the ward from 2018 to 2022.

Why do you want to be on the Niles City Council?

To be a bridge between the citizens and the city staff. Providing information to the community and making sure that decisions that are made by the city staff are well thought out and balance the needs of everyone in the community, not just the loudest voices in the room.

What do you hope to accomplish as a city council member?

To build trust between the city staff, local government officials and the citizens of Niles. Spend the taxpayer's money wisely. And to continue to build a safe and thriving community we are proud of.

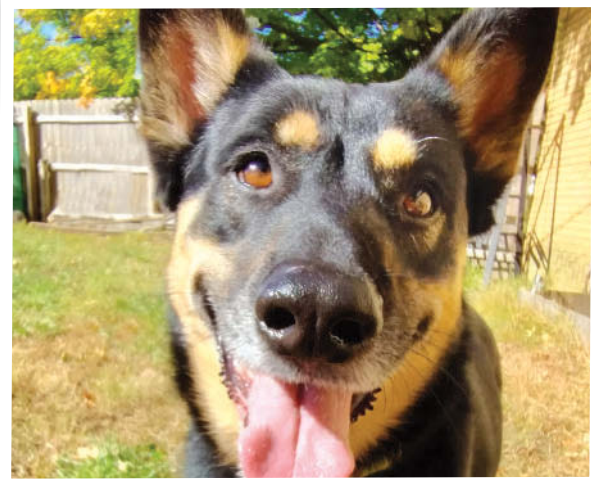
What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

I've already served a term on City Council from 2018-2022. So on day one, I'll already know how everything works. In addition, my Bachelor's degree is in Political Science. Most importantly, I'm not using this opportunity as a way to progress my own agenda. I only wish to serve so that we can all thrive in our community.

Nelson

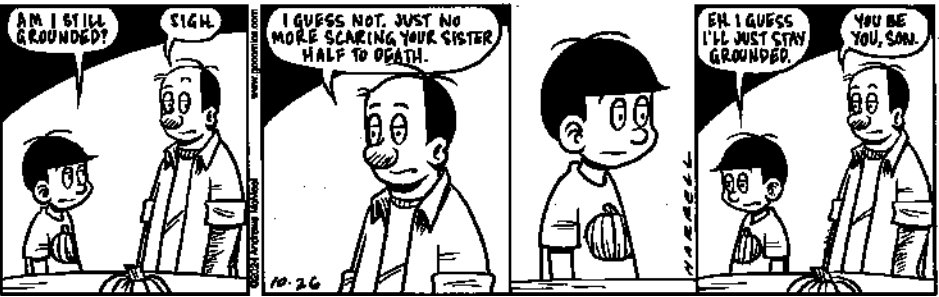
PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Callie**, a four-year-old Shepherd/Rottweiler mix with Animal Aid. She is both sweet and smart and will be a great companion. Callie loves people, kids and gets along fine with most dogs. She is best in a home without cats. Callie is housetrained, spayed and current on shots. Contact Animal Aid at (269) 934-SPAY, infoanimalaidswmi@gmail.com.



COMICS&PUZZLES

ADAM



ALLEY OOP



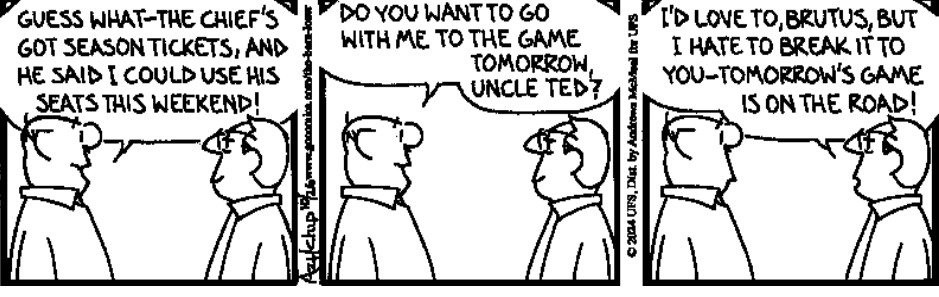
ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



BORN LOSER



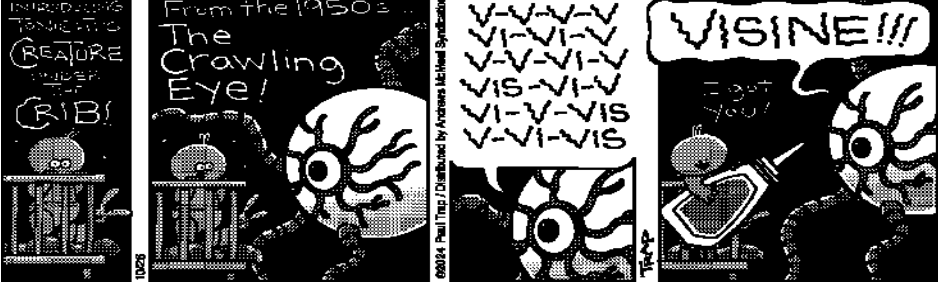
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



YOUR AD HERE

CALL TODAY

Find out how to grow your business in print and online. Call (269) 683-2100.

Leader Publications

Money doesn't grow on trees... But you can find it in your local newspaper.

With hundreds of dollars in coupon savings every week, your local newspaper pays for itself... and then some!

Call today to subscribe! 269-687-7710

Leader Publications • www.leaderpub.com

SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

7			1					8
6				9			4	7
			2		5			
				8	6		7	9
	4			7			8	
9	7		5	4				
		7		3				
4	3			1				2
8				7				6

MODERATELY CONFUSED



REALITY CHECK



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**

1 Blacken with fire

5 — bean

9 — Cruces, NM

12 Bar mitzvah dance

13 Fibs

14 Toward the back

15 Send out

16 Actor — Baldwin

17 Life story

18 Doneness preference

20 Overhaul

22 SSW opposite

23 Triad

24 Goods on board

27 Operatic song

29 Sporty truck

30 — makes perfect

34 Spooky

37 Distant

38 Eastern nurse

39 Discernment
- DOWN**

41 Allege

44 White ile

45 Hook and —

47 Outcome

51 "— howl!"

52 Notorious ruler

54 Above

55 — ammoniac

56 False coin

57 Philosopher — Descartes

58 Bakery order

59 Observes

60 Foundation

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

18 Doneness preference	58 Bakery order	19 Numero —	35 Police action
20 Overhaul	59 Observes	21 "— a Way To Go!"	36 Mammoth
22 SSW	60 Foundation	24 Pool stick	39 Gift for dad
23 Triad	DOWN	25 Braves, on score-	40 Take In
24 Goods on board	1 Sci. branch	boards	41 Embrace
27 Operatic song	2 "— Alone"	28 Ohio player	42 Hawaiian porch
29 Sporty truck	3 Like the Sahara	27 Chief	43 Confuse
30 — makes perfect	4 Valuation	28 "Go, team!"	44 Aquatic creatures
34 Spooky	5 Candle sight	30 School org.	46 Depend
37 Distant	6 Be under the	31 No —, ands or	48 Eye part
38 Eastern nurse	7 Swerve	butts	49 Monocle
39 Discernment	8 Austere	32 Purr producer	50 "A — Grows In Brooklyn"
	9 Toil		53 Regret

BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY



12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					</
----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	----

DEATH NOTICES

Daniel Baigorria, 35, of Niles, passed away in his home on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremations.

Alma Mullins, 101, of Niles, passed away Wednesday, Octo-

ber 23, 2024. A celebration of life will take place on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 1:00PM at Mission Hills. www.BrownFuneralHome-Niles.com

Robert Carlos Varney, 80, passed away on Sunday, October 20, 2024, in Niles, Michigan. Ar-

rangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Nathaniel Bedford, 59, of Niles, passed away Sunday, October 13, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Ser-

vices. www.BrownFuneralHome-Niles.com

Christina Athans, 82, of Berrien Springs, passed away Friday, October 18, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home of Berrien Springs. www.AllredFu-

neralHome.com

Lyndon Furst, 86, of Berrien Springs, passed away Sunday, October 20, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home of Berrien Springs. www.AllredFuneral-Home.com

OBITUARIES



Scott Novak
September 30, 1961
—October 23, 2024

Scott Michael Novak, 63, of Dowagiac, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, after an extended illness.

Scott was born Sept. 30, 1961, to Edward and Naomi “Nome” Novak, both of whom preceded him in death. He married the love of his life, Carol Page Novak, on Dec. 8, 1990, in

Dowagiac. Carol preceded him in death on April 18, 2018. Together they had a daughter, Kirsten, who survives.

Scott was a fixture in the southwest Michigan sports community. While a junior at Decatur High School, he began covering sports as a photo stringer for the Dowagiac Daily News. One night, the writer assigned to a basketball game was unable to attend the game Scott was photographing, so he wrote the story, too. So began a 42-year career in covering sports at Leader Publications, where Scott eventually became sports editor and never turned back. Most evenings and weekends for more than four decades, he could be found on the sidelines, in press boxes or in locker rooms, chronicling the wins and losses of everything from football and basketball to motocross and cross

country.

To Scott, local sports were about so much more than points on a scoreboard. He enjoyed getting to know local athletes for not only their athletic ability, but their character, and sharing their stories for posterity. He took great pride in showing up for local sports programs no matter how successful the season, and became an honorary member of not only his hometown Chieftains’ fan club, but also the Bobcats, Bucks, Vikings, Rangers and Eddies. His diligent reporting, creative feature writing and honest opinion commentary won him and Leader Publications’ newspapers dozens of awards through the Michigan Press Association, Michigan High School Athletic Association, the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan and the Associated Press.

Scott developed deep

friendships with coaches, officials, athletic directors and athletes at every level, and could share statistics and plays from decades before as if they happened recently. He enjoyed watching multiple generations of families go through sports programs, reminding young athletes of their parents’ glory days — because he saw them himself.

In addition to sports, Scott loved music — especially country, classic rock and Christmas music (which he made his coworkers listen to beginning at Labor Day every year). As an added perk of working in the media, he enjoyed checking many celebrity interviews off his bucket list, interviewing stars like Tommy James and Kenny Loggins. In his spare time he enjoyed attending concerts with friends and loved ones, baking and cooking,

hanging out with his family (including his beloved cats!), and catching up on TV shows like The Voice.

Scott was a beloved husband and father, a cherished colleague, and an icon in southwest Michigan. He and his byline will be sorely missed.

Scott is survived by his daughter, Kirsten Novak (Jordan Yaciw); three brothers, Lance (Laura) Novak, Chris (Joan) Novak, and Carl (Barbara) Novak; his mother-in-law, Sharon Harnden; brother-in-law Russel (Loria) Page; several nieces and nephews; and close friends Amelio Rodriguez, Ambrosia Neldon, Sandy Neldon, Donna Knight, and John Eby, among many more loved ones including his grandcat Olaf, who he shared many naps, snacks, and enjoyed watching sports with.

A service to celebrate Scott’s life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, at First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St., Dowagiac, with visitation from noon until the time of service at 4 p.m.. Memorial contributions may be directed to the donor’s local sports organization. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Please visit Scott’s personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com.



THE

CHIEFTAIN

HEART

HELPFUL

ENGAGED

ACHIEVEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY

TEAMWORK



DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS

BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

(269) 782-4400

DOWAGIACSCHOOLS.ORG

CROSSWORD ANSWER

From Page 5

C	H	A	R		F	A	V	A		L	A	S
H	O	R	A		L	I	E	S		A	F	T
E	M	I	T		A	L	E	C		B	I	O
M	E	D	I	U	M		R	E	W	O	R	K
			N	N	E				T	H	R	E
C	A	R	G	O		A	R	I	A			
U	T	E			P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E
E	L	D	R	I	T	C	H			F	A	R
			A	M	A	H			T	A	S	T
C	L	A	I	M			F	I	B			
L	A	D	D	E	R		R	E	S	U	L	T
A	N	D		N	E	R	O		O	V	E	R
S	A	L		S	L	U	G		R	E	N	E
P	I	E		E	Y	E	S		B	A	S	E

SUDOKU ANSWER

From Page 5

7	2	4	1	6	5	9	3	8
6	5	1	8	9	3	2	4	7
3	8	9	7	2	4	5	6	1
5	1	3	2	8	6	4	7	9
2	4	6	3	7	9	1	8	5
9	7	8	5	4	1	6	2	3
1	6	7	9	3	2	8	5	4
4	3	5	6	1	8	7	9	2
8	9	2	4	5	7	3	1	6

limited-time certificate specials

more ways to save



The Morrison family,
members since 2021

earn up to

4.50%

APY¹

for 9 months with an Ultra Checking account. IRA eligible.

earn up to

4.00%

APY¹

for 16 months with an Ultra Checking account. IRA eligible.

Open an account today!

(888) 982-1400 | UnitedFCU.com/save-more

United

we get U

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Insured by NCUA. APY=Annual Percentage Yield. [1] APY accurate as of 10/1/2024. Subject to change without notice. Rates include a 0.10% APY increase when the owner of this account who will receive the tax statement (the "Tax Reported Owner") is the Tax Reported Owner of an Ultra Checking account with an average monthly balance of at least \$1.00. Rates may change after the account is opened. If requirements are not met, rates are 4.40% APY for 9 months and 3.90% APY for 16 months. A penalty may be charged for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. Minimum balance required is \$500. 9 month certificate renews to 6 month standard certificate at maturity and 16 month certificate renews to 12 month standard certificate at maturity. Rates are based on current rates at the time of renewal. Only personal share certificates are eligible for advertised rates; business share certificates also available although rates may differ.

Southwest Michigan

Republican

VOTER GUIDE

CHUCK HEIT
SHERIFF

AMY BYRD
PROSECUTOR

SHARON TYLER
FOR COMMISSIONER

STACY PORTER
FOR CLERK



RULE OF LAW

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES



ANDREW FINK
Michigan Supreme Court



WILLIAM PATRICK O'GRADY
Michigan Supreme Court



ALBERT MAIS
District Court

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, Nov. 5

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

Saturday, October 26th — Sunday, November 3rd

PAID FOR WITH REGULATED FUNDS BY SWMIR PAC, 746 HANCE ST., NILES, MI 49120.
NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE



Scan here for
early voting info!

IMPACT

Continued from page A1

newspaper, in our high school magazine previews and or online at least once during their playing career. Scott knew the many sacrifices made by the student athletes, as well as the parents, during the training periods and competition seasons and he wanted to make sure everyone knew “our newspaper and its readers appreciate their commitment, and they deserve to be recognized for it” Scott told me in our first meeting in 2022 when I began as publisher.

There has been an outpouring of condolences and memories of Scott on the Leader Publications Facebook pages along with phone calls from the media, readers and fans of his daily writings:

- “Scott WAS Leader Publications Sports,” said Amelio Rodriguez. “He not only enjoyed high school sports, it was his passion. As someone who spent countless hours with him covering sports, it was amazing to see just how much he lived for it.”
- “I remember Scott...being on the sidelines back in the late 90s when I played football,” wrote Terry Groth. I was happy to see him still covering area athletics when my son started high school a few years ago.”
- “To all our Brandywine Community, if you’ve ever been to a game in Bobcat Nation or picked up a Niles Daily Star in the past 40+ years you’ve no doubt read a byline or story covered by Scott Novak” wrote Sandy Neldon.
- “When Scott was on the sideline, whether it be Brandywine, Niles, Dowagiac, or Buchanan, you

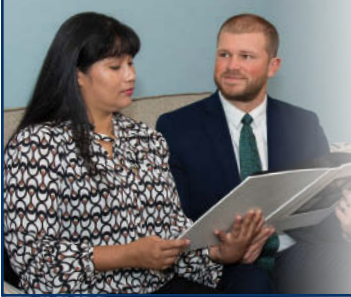


knew it was a big deal,” wrote Michael Morrison. “It was like John Madden calling a football game or Dicky V at a hoops game, you knew it was a big deal.” Former Publisher Jan Griffey worked with Scott

for 20 years. “In my career I have not found a more dedicated, talented or responsible sports editor,” she said. “He absolutely loved Southwest Michigan, and his work proved that. He also loved Leader Publications to his very core. Above all, Scott was a kind, caring and loving husband, father and friend.” Ambrosia Neldon worked closely with Scott as a Publisher of Leader Publications and shared her heartfelt feelings for him and his kindness. “The embodiment of the team player he portrayed in countless stories that will live on in scrapbooks of high school athletes for years to come” she said. Among her last visits with Scott, she quotes him as saying, “we worked so hard to make that paper something they could be

proud of.” She assured him that his hard work paid off. In rhythm with Neldon’s comments, Scott’s stories will continue to have a very long shelf life as players, parents, grandparents and coaches have safely preserved them in shoe boxes, cedar chests and frames across southwest Michigan and beyond. Scott helped make local sports a “big deal” for southwest Michigan players, parents, coaches and fans and with him not being on hand for kick offs, tip offs and lead offs, he will be missed. Scott lost his wife a few years ago and is survived by his daughter, Kirsten. We ask that you keep her in your thoughts on this very difficult day. As an expression of sympathy, Scott’s family asks that donations may be sent to the local sports organization of the donor’s choice.

Celebrate a life



SWEM CHAPEL
301 W Front St, Buchanan
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com

Starks
Family Funeral Homes
& Cremation Services



Choose The Leader In:

- Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
- Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
- Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
- Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
- Fuel Locations in Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso



Contract/Fixed Price Options

- Volume Discounts
- Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
- Premium Diesel Fuel
- Hoses & Filters in stock

QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS

J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes



J&H OIL CO.

Quality Petroleum Distributors
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US THE BEST CANNABIS STORE!



HUGE SELECTION OF APPAREL/SWAG

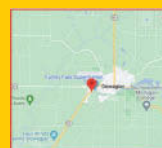
BEST PRICES AROUND!

ONLINE ORDERING

DAILY SPECIALS ON WEBSITE

TRY OUR CURBSIDE PICKUP
visit our menu on line
TWISTED-BEE.COM
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram
56271 M-51 S., DOWAGIAC, MI

EASY TO FIND TOUGH TO BEAT
269-462-9263







5.15% APY*

Benefits Checking

No monthly or minimum balance fees

Up to \$20 in monthly ATM fee refunds***

Earn 5.15% APY* on balances up to \$10,000

+\$250**

Bonus

rev.10.17.24

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates accurate as of 10/1/24, \$25 minimum deposit required to open. Earn the 5.15% APY on balances of up to \$10,000.00. Members not meeting the Dividend Requirements will not earn dividends. Dividend Requirements are e-Statements, Direct Deposit, at least 20 debit card transactions per month that clear your account as signature-based or PIN-based point of sale (POS) debit transactions (PIN-based ATM transactions not eligible; please note that Honor posts transactions based on how they are received from merchants) and minimum 1 monthly online banking login. **ATM foreign surcharge fees will be refunded monthly up to \$20/month. Members not meeting requirements will not earn ATM foreign surcharge fee refunds. No free checks offered on this account. One account per Member. Rate is variable and may change after account is opened. Insured by NCUA.

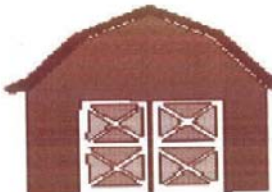
*APY = Annual Percentage Yield, 0.00% APY. **\$250 paid when new or existing member without a current checking account opens a personal checking account with a minimum opening deposit of \$25, sets up qualifying direct deposit(s) totaling \$500 or more and conducts 8+ debit card transactions all within 60 days of account opening. A qualifying direct deposit is defined as one from a recurring paycheck, pension, or government benefits (such as social security) payments only. Non-payroll related ACH, person-to-person payments and transfers from other financial institutions or other Honor CU accounts do not qualify. Bonus will be paid within 30 days of minimum requirements being met. New account must remain open and maintain a positive balance for at least 90 days. If criteria is not met, \$250 bonus will be withdrawn from account. New members must open account at honorcu.com/jointhefam or a local member center location. Existing members must open new checking account at member center location and specifically mention the \$250 offer at time of opening. Existing members that have closed a checking account at Honor in last five years, not eligible. Offer subject to change without notice. The value of the reward may be reported on the appropriate Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms and may be considered taxable income to you. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your specific situation. Insured By NCUA.

Honor

CREDIT UNION



HonorCU.com/bonus
800.442.2800



Huge 21st Annual

BARN

13085 Cleveland Ave.
Buchanan, MI

SALE

Thursday, Friday & Saturday (Bargain Day)

October 31st - November 2nd

8:00 am - 6:00 pm or Later

US 12 to Galien, MI - then North on Cleveland Ave.

Approximately 6-1/2 Miles - Watch for Signs

Don't Miss This Big Sale!

Thousands of Items: Antiques Galore; Primitives; Old Farm Related Items; Smalls of All Kinds; Several Show Cases Full of Antiques Items; Old Tins; Kitchen Ware; 1930's Pinball Machine (Non Electric); Cast Iron; A Huge Selection of Costume Jewelry; Real Antique Arrow Heads; Advertising Items; Old Paper Items; Wood Goat Cart; Tools; 12 Gallon Crock; Glassware; 1800's Child's Sled (Old Paint); Runner Sleds; Sewing Items; Large Wrought Iron Plant Holders; Vintage Flatware; Plus Hundreds of Other Items.

NO EARLY SALES - CASH ONLY



Many More Real Arrow Heads!



HALF

Continued from page A1

Elvis (Doug Church) from De-catur.

Since he studied journalism at Southwestern Michigan College, Scott was a Roadrunner for life and as excited as a kid on Christmas morning when intercollegiate athletics returned after a 25-year hiatus since he covered SMC teams and Steve's Run in the first era.

He was the prototype for the professional he became, in 1981 covering golf, men's basketball and volleyball, but also writing straight news and photographing two stage productions, "Finian's Rainbow" and "The Mad Woman of Chaillot."

Just like that he was sports editor in The Southwester masthead, just as he paid Daily News dues developing film in the darkroom and covering random sporting events as a stringer.

One time he played society editor. To counter my year-end column, The Lefties, he created the TYAACODs (Three Yards and a Cloud of Dust, or "Ty Cods"), which is how our 1985 wedding landed on the sports page in an item slugged Biggest Surprise: "John and Sue's wedding on Oct. 12. I never thought I would see the day when these two tied the knot. This might not have been a sporting event, however, anyone who attended the reception knew this was the social event of the year."

Scott was a pretty good athlete himself, the most nimble big man I ever saw, a lefty holding down first base and crushing home runs at company picnics (while portraying the Wandering Scarecrow of "Wizards of Ads") or playing driveway basketball.

His resilience was proven time and again as we conjured progress editions and special sections while he snagged major interviews through sheer perseverance. I truly thought he'd land his white whale, Ringo.

Really gonna miss my other better half.

John Eby is the Senior Writer and Coordinator of Media Relations at Southwestern Michigan College. He served as Community Editor for Leader Publications from 1981 to 2013.

PLANT

Continued from page A1

Other members of the public spoke about a variety of subjects, including a suggestion to form a committee and plan for a community center in what will become the former location of the Edwardsburg Branch of the Cass District Library. A new location for the library is currently under construction. The council also received praise for the upgrades to Gunn Park and a request for additional signage to separate the private property adjacent to the park.

With increased park activity, the village is considering keeping the portable toilet available year-round. Village staff would have to lay gravel and maintain snow removal in the area to assure proper access for emptying the unit.

Trustee Bidwell noted reports of poor conditions of Gateway Drive and suggested prioritizing it for paving in the spring.

The Library Board announced that the library will be selling t-shirts and etched-glass ornaments as part of a winter fundraiser. They are also still in need of a new board member.

The Ambulance Board is also in need of a new member.

The Parks Board is seeking volunteers and fundraising ideas for a reinstated park's committee. They will begin meeting on the first Wednesday of each month in November. Meetings will start at 6:30pm at the village hall.

It was announced that, though few leaves had fallen, the scheduled leaf-pick up time has officially begun in the village. Residents are reminded to rake leaves into long narrow piles that do not go into the street or block fire hydrants or cover water boxes. They are also reminded to remove and brush or debris from the piles.

Official Trick-or-Treating hours in Edwardsburg will take place from 6 to 7:30pm on Thursday, October 31st. The Village office will be closed on Monday, November 11th for Veterans Day. The next village council meeting will take place on Monday, November 18th at 7pm at the village hall.

PIPESTONE
SMALL ENGINE

We now carry  Simplicity

Mowers, Chainsaws, Power Equipment

Engines, Parts, Service, Tractors

 Husqvarna



Kohler • Tecumseh • Briggs & Stratton
Ariens • Husqvarna • Tanaka • Gravely

4947 Park Road, Eau Claire, MI 49111 • 269-461-6421
www.pipestonesmallenginemi.net

- Cylinder Boring
- Machine Shop
- Engine Rebuilding
- Crankshaft Regrinding

ELECT

CHUCK

HEIT

FOR SHERIFF

Vote
November 5th!



EXPERIENCE

30+ years of law enforcement experience with 21 years as Undersheriff

PROVEN

Currently serving as your Berrien County Sheriff

TRUSTED

Endorsed by Retired Sheriff Paul Baily and over 90% of Police Chiefs and Public Safety Directors in Berrien County. Also endorsed by Prosecutor Amy Byrd

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Chuck Heit as Sheriff,
P.O. Box 632, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Niles Daily Star
Sports



Lorie Bowers, Agent
68935 Gateway Dr.
PO Box 623
Edwardsburg, MI
49112-0623
Bus: 269-663-7015
www.LorieBowers.com

Family is Why WE DO IT ALL

Call or visit for all of your insurance needs.

Office Hours:
Monday: 9 am to 6 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday by Appointment

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR  STATE FARM IS THERE[®]

StateFarm.com[®] • State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

VOLLEYBALL

Niles volleyball downs Buchanan, Bucks' Aalfs eclipses 1,000 kills



JEFF DOUGLAS | LEADER PUBLICATIONS



STAFF REPORT

NILES — The Niles volleyball team emerged victorious against rival Buchanan Monday night as one Buck joined an exclusive club.

The Vikings defeated the Bucks 21-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-19 in the matchup. Despite the loss, Buchanan's Chloe Aalfs reached the 1,000 kills milestone during the game.

GOLF

Dowagiac's Guernsey 6th, team 15th at Division 3 golf finals

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BATTLE CREEK — Senior Rebecca Guernsey, of Dowagiac, shot a 163 to place sixth overall at the Division 3 Michigan High School Athletic Association LP Girls Golf Finals in Battle Creek last weekend.

Guernsey (80, 83) led the way for the Chieftains, who placed 15th overall as a team. Senior Carlee Spagnoli fired a 95 in round one and a 105 in round two for a score of 200; junior Jaden Kusch tallied 108 in round one and 114 in round two for a score of 222, junior Olivia Stockwell totaled a 122 in round one and 135 in two for 257 and senior Madison Winchester fired a 130 in round one and 116 in round two for 246 to round out scoring for the Chieftains.

Edwardsburg junior Jada Gaideski fired a 91 in the first round and a 98 in the second for a total of 189, good for 44th place.



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

FOOTBALL

Franklin returns to lead Buchanan to 35-18 win over Dowagiac

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Quarterback Jake Franklin made his presence known early and often in his return to action Friday against Dowagiac.

The senior returned from injury to complete 18 of 31 passes for 262 yards and two touchdown passes – including a 60-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Baker on the game's first play – to help lift the Bucks to an important 35-18 win over host Dowagiac on Senior Night.

"We've been practicing all week and we ran that play multiple times," Franklin said. "I knew my receiver Tyler Baker could make the grab. I'm putting it up there and I know he will catch and score, so it was a great feeling when he entered the end zone."

See WIN, Page B3



MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS



SCOTT NOVAK

A local hero

To say Scott Novak was an inspiration to me would be an understatement. Over the course of five decades, Scott had his pulse on the local sports scene in a way few ever have. Climbing aboard the Leader Publications ship in the summer of 2020, it was refreshing to see a reporter as decorated as Scott be so down-to-earth and approachable. I could come to Scott with a question and he would be there with an answer, as he had experienced just about every scenario a reporter could find himself in over the course of his career. I marveled at the way he could write a story that appealed to both the diehard sports fan and the casual reader alike. He had a way of making you feel important when you spoke with him. Everywhere I went, I could find people who had Scott Novak stories.

"He's a good guy."

"He's an institution around here."

"We're lucky to have him."

Scott has shared countless stories of his career with me the past four years but it was clear early on that Dowagiac's 1990 state title run held a special place in his heart. I had the pleasure of attending last Friday's Football Tailgate – a College Gameday-esque program dedicated to high school football rivalries and big matchups in southwest



Michigan – in Dowagiac. During the program, the 1990 state championship team was highlighted and members of that team were in attendance, including the head coach of that team, Bernard Thomas.

As I stood there listening to Thomas recall the team's championship run, I felt as though Scott was there in spirit, even though he was in a hospital bed miles away. Because many of the stories Thomas recalled were the same stories Scott would share with me, almost verbatim. It was a surreal experience.

About two months ago, just as football season was set to begin, I visited Scott in-person to deliver a special gift. After he was hospi-

talized for a heart attack in August, I visited each of our six athletic departments asking athletic directors and coaches to sign cards with "get well soon" messages on them. Upon seeing the cards and the messages on them, he was nearly moved to tears.

"Are you trying to make me cry," he asked.

The truth is that as much as Scott loved the local sports scene, the scene loved him back and then some. When I am out in the field covering community events, community members will sometimes ask about Scott.

"Does he still work there?"

"He covered my kids when

See SCOTT, Page B3

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

FOOTBALL

Notre Dame’s Kiser Named Finalist for Prestigious William V. Campbell Trophy

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — For his performance on the field, excellence in the classroom and service to the community, graduate student linebacker Jack Kiser has been named a finalist for the National Football Foundation’s prestigious William V. Campbell Trophy, college football’s premier scholar-athlete award that annually recognizes an individual as the absolute best in the nation for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary leadership.

Kiser is one of 16 finalists for the award, selected from a pool of 204 semifinalists. Each finalist for the award receives an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship as a member of the 2024 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class.

He is the 20th Notre Dame Football student-athlete to be named a finalist for the Campbell Trophy, and the second Notre Dame finalist for the award in as many years, joining JD Bertrand, who was a finalist in 2023. Notre Dame is one of just two schools with back-to-back honorees this sea-

son.

“We are thrilled to announce this year’s finalists for the Campbell Trophy,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning, whose sons Peyton (a Campbell Trophy recipient) and Eli were NFF National Scholar-Athletes in 1997 and 2003, respectively. “These exceptional young men embody an unwavering commitment to excellence in all areas of their lives, from the classroom to the football field. They truly represent the best of college football, and we know they have only begun to reach their potential.”

Kiser has already been named to the 2024 AFCA Allstate Good Works Team and a semifinalist for the 2024 Wuerffel Trophy.

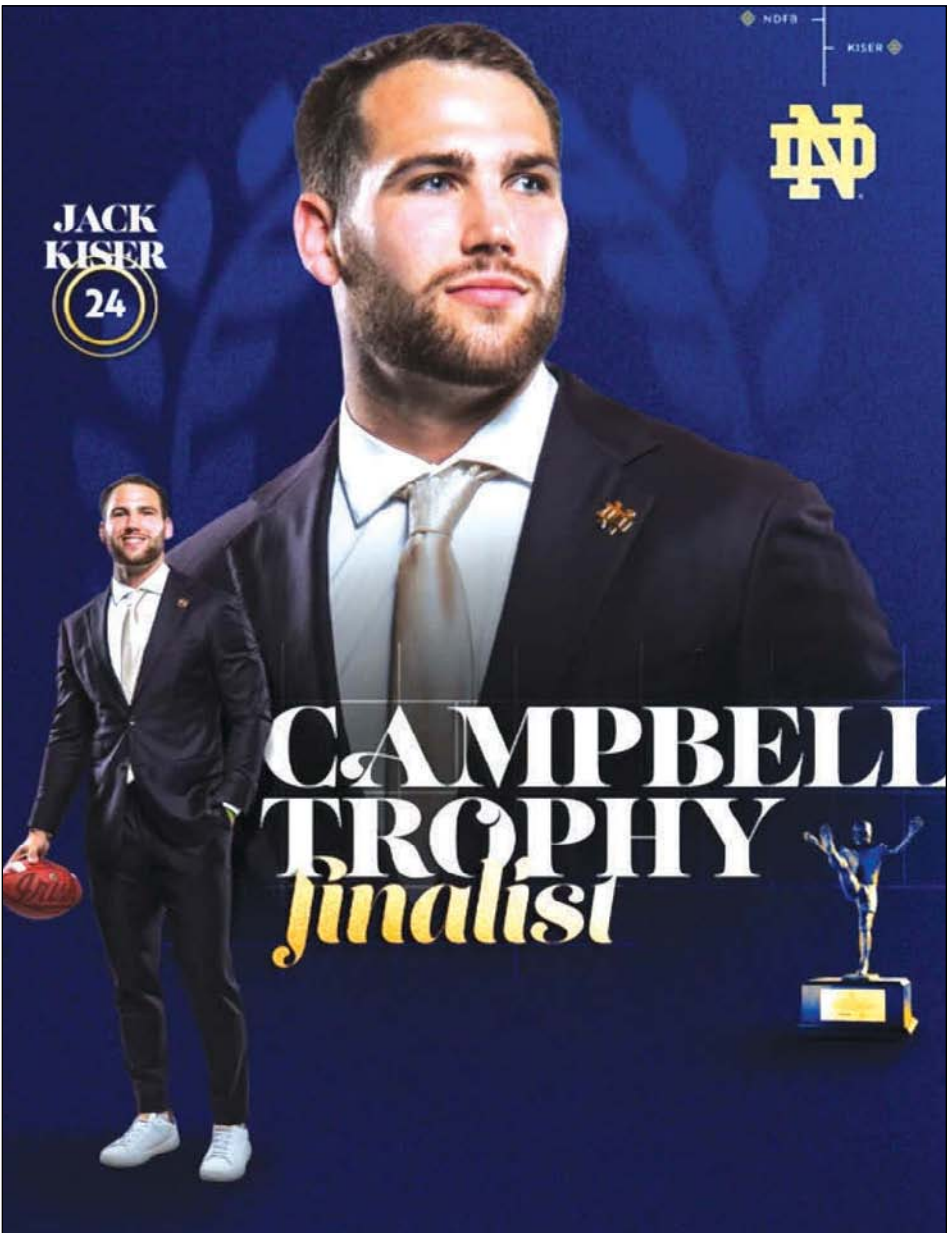
One of the most tenured players on Notre Dame’s roster and a team captain, Kiser is in his sixth season playing for the Irish and leads the linebacker room. A Butkus Award Watch List honoree, Kiser owns 219 career tackles, 11 tackles for loss, four sacks, four interceptions (two pick-sixes), 10 pass defended, five forced fumbles and a blocked kick. His 65

tackles in 2023 placed him third among Irish defenders and his 58 tackles in 2022 ranked him second on the team. This year, he currently ranks second on the team with 34 tackles..

Kiser was Notre Dame’s 2023 Special Teams Player of the Year. Last season, he played in all 13 games, making three starts as a consistent contributor on special teams as well as consistent playing time at linebacker. Kiser finished third on the team with 62 tackles, and tied for the team-lead with 41 solo tackles. He added 1.5 tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks and an interception, also recording a pass breakup and three quarterback hurries, and forced a fumble.

Owning two Notre Dame degrees, Kiser is a force in the classroom. He is one of two finalists for the Campbell Trophy who have already earned a master’s degree. He achieved a 3.82 undergraduate GPA, majoring in business analytics, and a 3.97 GPA to earn his master’s degree in accountancy.

Following the 2023 football season, Kiser was named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team, recognizing his academic success paired with his athletic accomplishments. He was also named to the 2024 National Football Foundation Honor Society. Graduating in 2022,



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

he continued his pursuit of academic rigor in the Master’s in Accountancy program, becoming the top-ranked student in the entire class. Kiser earned selection to the Dean’s List in Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

In May of 2023, Kiser was awarded the Dean’s Graduate Business Award, given to the student in each program, nominated by faculty, who demonstrates strong leadership amongst his/

her classmates, shows promise for future professional success, and has a strong record of scholarship. He also earned the Tom Frecka Academic Achievement Award, recognizing the top GPA in the entire Master’s of Science in Accountancy program.

Kiser has led and participated in several community-facing initiatives during his time at Notre Dame. He has twice served as the player committee chairman for the program’s Cleats For a Cause initiative,

and he served as the Fighting Irish Fight for Life football team lead for the past three years.

Additionally, Kiser worked with local low-income families to perform tax returns this past spring on a weekly basis leading up to Tax Day. He has also made an impact in his home community, as he visited his former youth football team to surprise local kids from his area, spend time with the team, and give them tickets to a Notre Dame Football game.



Ask Us About Our Pre-Need Plans

PAUL E. MAYHEW FUNERAL HOME, INC.

26863 W. Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI 269-663-5345 Paul E. Mayhew, Owner



Cemetery Memorial Stones

21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031 Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828 www.monumentsbydesignllc.com monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

We'll be there when you need us most



Mission Hills

Memorial Chapel, Crematory & Gardens - Since 1953 - Niles • 269-683-8333 • MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com

Slabaugh's Storage Barns

260-768-7989 Leave Message

8x8 up to 14x36

8x8.....\$1,695 8x12.....\$2,035 10x12.....\$2,560 10x16.....\$2,905 12x16.....\$3,550 12x20.....\$4,095

Compare Our Quality & Price!

Assembled & Painted!



ECKLER'S PRODUCE FRESH PICKED

SUPER SWEET SWEET CORN WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

TOMATOES, BEETS, NEW POTATOES. (CANDY SWEET ONIONS BY THE POUND OR 1/2 BUSHEL. CALL TO ORDER) BELL PEPPERS, SWEET & HOT PEPPERS, WINTER SQUASH INCLUDING HONEYNUT BUTTERNUT, TURNIPS.

WINTER SQUASH BY THE BUSHEL AND HALF BUSHEL

PUMPKINS, CORN SHOCKS, INDIAN CORN, AND GOURDS.

HONEY CRISP APPLES AND OTHER VARIETIES WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES DRY GOURDS FOR CRAFTING

1879 Barron Lake Road • Niles, MI 49120 7 Days a Week • 9am - 6pm 269-683-2509 • www.EcklerFarms.com

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — One of the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s most popular programs, the Scholar-Athlete Award, will again with Farm Bureau Insurance present 32 \$2,000 scholarships to top student-athletes at member high schools during the 2024-25 school year.

The MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award highlights the value extracurricular activities play in the total education of high school students, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The Scholar-Athlete Award is in its 36th year. Since the award’s inception in 1988-89, Farm Bureau Insurance has presented \$1,088,000 in scholarships through this program.

The first 30 scholarships will be presented on a graduated basis across the MHSAA’s traditional class structure. From Class A schools, six boys and six girls will receive scholarships; from Class B schools, four boys and four girls; from Class C schools, three boys and three girls; and from Class D schools, two boys and two girls will be honored. The fi-

nal two scholarships will be awarded at-large to minority recipients, regardless of school size. The scholarships may be used at the institution of higher learning the recipients attend during the first year at those colleges.

Applications from individual schools will be limited to the number of available scholarships in their enrollment class. Class A schools may submit the names of six boys and six girls, Class B schools may submit four boys and four girls, Class C may submit three boys and three girls and Class D may submit two boys and two girls.

Students applying for Scholar-Athlete Awards must be graduating during the 2024-25 school year, carrying an unrounded 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average and have won a varsity letter in a sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament: baseball, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys bowling, girls competitive cheer, girls and boys cross country, football, girls and boys golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, girls and boys lacrosse, girls and boys skiing, girls and boys soccer, softball, girls and boys

swimming & diving, girls and boys tennis, girls and boys track & field, girls volleyball and wrestling.

Applicants will be required to show involvement in other school and community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Information – including answers to a number of frequently asked questions – and links to the application are available online on the Scholar-Athlete Award page of MHSAA.com. Applications are available in digital format only and must be submitted online by 4 p.m. Dec. 6.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select finalists and winners in late January, with the winners to be announced throughout February. All applicants, finalists and scholarship recipients will be announced on the MHSAA Website. The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized during the 2025 MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing.

Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan was founded in 1949 by Mich-

igan farmers who wanted an insurance company that worked as hard as they did. Those values still guide the company today and are a big reason why it is known as Michigan’s Insurance Company, dedicated to protecting the farms, families, and businesses of this great state. Farm Bureau Insurance agents across Michigan provide a full range of insurance services – life, home, auto, farm, business, retirement, Lake Estate*, and more – protecting more than 660,000 Michigan residents.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.

The first 30 scholarships will be presented on a graduated basis across the MHSAA's traditional class structure. From Class A schools, six boys and six girls will receive scholarships; from Class B schools, four boys and four girls; from Class C schools, three boys and three girls; and from Class D schools, two boys and two girls will be honored.

Applications Available for MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Awards

BASKETBALL

Hidalgo Named Preseason AP All-American



COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Hannah Hidalgo's ever-growing list of accolades just added another line, as the sophomore was named a Preseason AP All-American on Tuesday.

A now-sophomore from Southern New Jersey, Hidalgo averaged 22.6 points, 6.2 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 4.6 steals per contest last year. Her 22.6 points per contest was a Notre Dame record, and she broke both the steals/game and total steals Irish records while leading the country in swipes.

Hidalgo and fellow rookie JuJu Watkins earned First Team AP All-America honors last year, becoming the fourth and fifth freshmen in history to earn the honor.

Hidalgo has already been named the Preseason ACC Player of the Year ahead of this season.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SCOTT

Continued from page B1

they were in school.”

“Wow, he covered ME when I was in school.”

At least three generations of locals have seen Scott patrol the sidelines of their games. As I think about Scott and the impact he has made on so many lives, I circle back to one of the last columns he wrote, titled “I am thankful for the ‘heroes’ in our world.” In it, Scott writes about the everyday people in our lives who often go unnoticed while making an impact in our communities. While these words were written last November, they seem especially poignant today.

“As the years go by, you start to re-

flect on your life and how it has turned out. You wonder if, in some small way, you have made a difference,” wrote Scott. “If you are honest with yourself, you know you could have done more. Even the people we look up to, the ones who have dedicated their lives to helping others, say they could have always done more. That being said, I admire those who have given what they could for the betterment of our world. Those who may not have had much to begin with still go out of their way to try and make life better for those around them.

“Those are the real heroes in our world.”

You were a real hero to me, Scott. Thank you for everything.

Maxwell Harden is the managing editor at Leader Publications. He can be reached by email at max.harden@leaderpub.com.



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

WIN

Continued from page B1

“We took steps back in maturity level,” said Dowagiac Coach Duane Davis. “We were not the team that we coached during the summer. We were a little more selfish tonight and I didn’t enjoy that. We gotta start thinking about the football team better.”

Franklin had been sidelined since suffering a collarbone injury Sept. 20 against Benton Harbor.

“We kept that under the radar,” said Buchanan Coach Mark Frey. “He got cleared two weeks ago to throw and then got cleared (to play) yesterday, so we said ‘let’s go.’”

“My collarbone is feeling well, so why not try to get a release (from the doctor) to play in a game like this,” Franklin said. “When I got the release, I was so happy. I almost hugged the doctor.”

Buchanan ran 47 total plays compared to Dowagiac’s 48, with the Bucks out gaining the Chieftains 338-241. The Bucks had a 262-89 advantage in passing yards while the Chieftains had the edge on the ground 152-73.

Dowagiac quarterback Isaiah Fitchett completed 3 of 5 passes for 89 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Jamal Williams caught two touchdown passes and Kaleb Smith notched a 41-yard touchdown run.

Tompkins had nine carries for 37 yards and two touchdowns runs and Baker had four catches for 109 yards and one



MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

touchdown while Reed added six catches for 71 yards and a score. On defense, Owen Thompson led the team with 12 tackles, Baker had 10 tackles and one sack, Ethan Frame had two sacks, Lucas Zeiger had one sack and Reed added eight tackles and the pick-six.

“I feel like (Reed) was everywhere, and then he also made a good defensive play too,” Franklin said. “Brody’s an animal on both sides of the ball and I can go to him whenever I need him. Great hands, great size and they’re gonna have two more years of him, and I don’t think they’re gonna be happy.”

Adding to the game’s fanfare was Friday Football Tailgate, a pre-game show dedicated to high school football rivalries and big matchups that gives viewers an experience similar to that of College Gameday. Hundreds of Dowagiac and Buchanan fans turned out before the game to participate in the experience.

“Both crowds were amazing,” Franklin said. “We had people along the fences. It’s a game I’ll never forget, especially with the scenario we’re

in. It was a great game and the victory makes it even better.”

“I think we dug into this way too much,” Davis said. “I said it last week against Berrien Springs because it turned out to be a Game of The Week and that’s all (the players) talked about. They didn’t talk about the football game and we focused on the wrong things at the wrong time, to be honest. We need to start focusing on football and not the rest of it.”

The Bucks got the ball back after Smith’s touchdown run and found the end zone via a 10-yard pass from Franklin to Brody Reed to go up 14-6 at the end of the 1st.

The Chieftains were driving the ball looking to even the score when Reed intercepted an Isaiah Fitchett pass and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown to put the Bucks up 22-6.

“I think that was a huge catalyst,” Frey said. “I think they had a lot of momentum, a lot of big crowd plays and then all of a sudden when that happened, it got quiet out here. We’re really proud of him for that.”

The Chieftains were able to respond just before halftime with a scor-

ing drive capped by a 14-yard touchdown pass from Fitchett to Williams to trim Buchanan’s lead to 22-12 at the break.

Buchanan received the ball coming out of halftime and made the most of it as Gabe Tompkins punched in a four-yard touchdown run to put the Bucks up 29-12. Buchanan recovered its onside kick attempt as it aimed to put the game away for good but the Dowagiac defense was able to hold.

Following a missed field goal attempt from Buchanan, the Chieftains embarked on a 5:55 scoring drive that saw Fitchett find Williams again for a 21-yard touchdown strike to make it a 29-18 game with 11:54 left in the game. After recovering a Buchanan fumble, the Chieftains were called for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Looking for a big play on offense, Fitchett handed the ball off to LaMone Moore Jr. for a halfback pass attempt that was intercepted by Tompkins at the Dowagiac 12-yard line, sealing the win for the Bucks. Tompkins would find the end zone a few plays later for the game’s final points.

“We really emphasized this week bending and not breaking,” Frey said. “We knew they could score a lot of points so we really said buckle down and fight hard.”

Franklin’s poise in the pocket allowed him to find open receivers on short, intermediate and deep throws. Seven different Bucks caught a pass in the game.

“He’s a phenomenal player, he’s worked so hard for this,” Frey said. “I’m just so glad he was

able to get back and lead us to another victory.”

Buchanan (5-3, 4-1) will face Union City next week as it aims to keep its postseason hopes alive.

“We’re gonna have to put it together next week and hopefully sneak in again,” Frey said.

The Chieftains have now lost two straight after a four-game win streak. Davis aims to get

his team back to playing “old school Dowagiac football.”

“It’s going to be a benefit because we gotta get back to old school us and we’re going to find that old school us again and that’s going to happen next week,” he said. “There’s gonna be a different tempo to practice and they’re either going to accept it or they’re not.”

2930 Niles Ave, St. Joseph MI • 269-982-7323 • 2540 S. 11th St. Niles, MI • 269-684-2880
Dowagiac, MI • 269-782-9825 • South Bend/Granger • 574-271-8700 • www.signaltravel.com

GROUP TRIPS 2024

November 16: A Beautiful Notice - The Neil Diamond Musical - Cadillac Palace Theater in Chicago and a delicious lunch at the berghoff Restaurant.

December 4: The Texas Tenors - Deep in the Heart of Christmas - Blue Gate Performing Arts Center in Shipshewana, IN. Enjoy a delicious lunch and holiday show by the most successful music group in the history of America's Got Talent.

See our website or call for more information

Did You Know...

Using protective devices like alarm systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and dead bolt locks could get you a discount on homeowner’s insurance?

Call today to find out more!
(269) 683-4900

Business • Home
Auto • Life • Farm

214 N. 4th St., Niles
www.imsinsuranceagency.com
(269) 683-4900

More living, less pain

Hear from doctors during a free event.

People who experience joint pain often tolerate it far too long.
Find answers that lead to life with less pain and more movement.

Join Corewell Health orthopedic specialists across Southwest Michigan for a free 45-minute community seminar. You'll learn about the latest techniques for addressing hip, knee and shoulder pain and how new, less-invasive surgical solutions are providing higher quality outcomes for treating arthritis and worn out joints.

Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m.

Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals -
Niles Hospital
31 N. St. Joseph Ave., Niles

Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.

Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals -
St. Joseph Hospital
1234 Napier Ave., St. Joseph

Reserve your spot!
corewellhealth.org/southwest-orthopedic-seminars



HIDDEN ACRES HOSTS ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT, FALL MARKET

By **MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

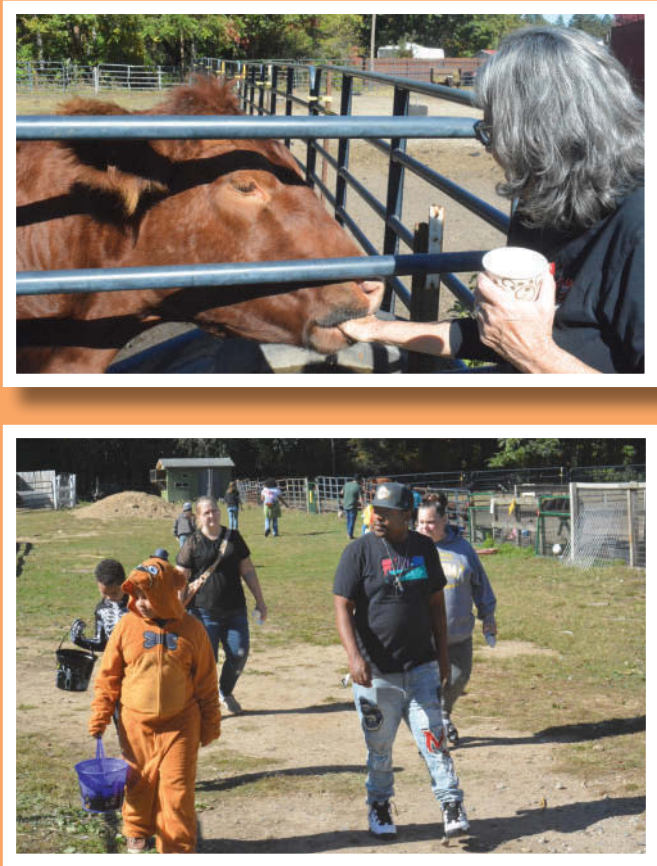
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP — Hidden Acres Safe Haven, 50582 Pleasant St., Dowagiac, hosted its annual Trunk or Treat and Fall Market last Saturday.

Guests were able to participate in wagon rides, a petting zoo, “chicken poop bingo,” arts and crafts and a trunk or treat event for children and kitten adoptions. Vendors were also on hand for the market. The annual event raises money for animal feed and veterinary bills.

Hidden Acres provides homes for unwanted and special needs animals and livestock. Hidden Acres’ Helen’s House for Kittens provides homes for unwanted kittens until they are adopted.

Hidden Acres’ Dawn East was thankful for the community’s support of the event.

“It’s great because some of these people that are coming have been coming from the first year on,” she said. “It is great to see the community support.”



MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Area men sentenced to prison

By **DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Two area men were sentenced to prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Richard Romeo Hill, Jr., 32, of Benton Harbor, pleaded guilty to third-degree fleeing and eluding and was sentenced to 14 months to five years in prison. He has credit for 144 days already served and must pay \$198 in fines and costs.



Hill

The incident occurred April 16 in Niles Township. His sentence can be served in any penal institution as he is also facing charges for violating his probation from an Indiana sentence.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky said that Hill’s record speaks for itself, while defense attorney Angela Easterday noted that Hill has struggled with alcohol and mental health issues.

“He got new medications in jail and different programs,” Easterday said. “He understands he needs to change his life. We’re asking for a one year jail sentence or a Swift & Sure probation so he can participate in in mental health and drug treatment programs.”

For his part, Hills apologized to the court and took full responsibility for his actions. He said he has been struggling with mental health issues.

“Your record is terrible,” Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said. “I have to consider the protection of the community whether you take responsibility for your own sake. You had fleeing and eluding convictions in 2009 and 2021 and here we go again with another fleeing and eluding.”

“I’m happy if you are addressing your issues with medications but that doesn’t cancel out your behavior which put police and the public at risk. At age 32, you’re very young to have this record. You were on probation in Indiana when you committed this crime. I’m not sure what good it would do to put you on probation when you continue to violate and put the community in danger.”

Earl Edwood Watts, 38, of Benton Harbor, pleaded guilty to second offense possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to 14 months to 20 years in prison with credit for 18 days served. He must pay \$198 in fines and costs.



Watts

The incident occurred July 29 in Niles. This sentence is concurrent with a 365 day jail sentence from a probation violation from a meth conviction earlier this year.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Kate Arnold noted that Watts was on probation in drug treatment court when this incident occurred. “He was found with a large amount of drugs in this incident and has an extensive record of drugs and assaultive crimes.”

Watts apologized and said he had made “real bad choices”. “I don’t have an excuse, I messed up,” he said.

Judge Smith said that giving him another probation sentence made no sense since he was on a drug court probation when he committed this crime. “Drug court probation is the last chance to take advantage of local programs and you have not shown a willingness to do so,” she said.

“At some point, you have to figure out where the bottom is,” she added. “Here you had a decent amount of meth.”

Other people were sentenced Monday to jail and/or probation.

Amber Star Laylin, 38, homeless, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, attempted identity theft and receiving, concealing and possession of stolen property \$200 to \$1,000 and was sentenced to 150 days in jail with credit for 87 days served on the first two charges and credit for time served, 87 days, on the stolen property charge.



Laylin

She must pay a total of \$396 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred April 27 in Niles Township.

Defense attorney Amy McDowell said Laylin knows she has a drug addiction and has been admitted into an inpatient drug treatment program in northern Michigan after she serves her jail term. “She sought out this program,” she said.

Laylin said she has made a commitment to herself to change her life and get the help she needs. She said she realizes that the change won’t happen overnight but is committed to do so.

Judge Smith noted that Laylin is “quickly building up quite a record” which will continue to grow if she continues to use drugs. She said the biggest thing Laylin can do is to get help which she has already done and that putting her on probation isn’t necessary.

Markus Lamar Slaughter, 34, of Niles pleaded guilty to possession on methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 87 days served and \$658 in fines and costs.



Slaughter

The incident occurred July 27 in Niles.

Arnold said she was concerned that Slaughter has past meth convictions and is continuing to use.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said that Slaughter has housing, employment and support from his family. She said Slaughter had been placed on misdemeanor probation earlier this year but hadn’t really started it when this incident happened. She said that the time he has spent in jail has shown him that he needs to avoid meth and other drugs.

“The three months I’ve spent in jail and time away from my family has shown me that drugs are not worth it, I’m done,” he said.

Judge Smith said that a lot of people tell her that they’re done with drugs. “The proof will be if you can stay off drugs,” she said. “I was skeptical to put you on a new probation but you had barely gotten started on that one. If you have made the decision that you want to become clean, I hope probation will be of assistance. If you violate, I could send you to prison.”



Grubb

In other sentencings:

• Christopher Erik Grubb, 36, of Berrien Center, pleaded guilty to unlawful use of a motor vehicle and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for 23 days served and \$858 in fines and costs. The incident occurred May 14 in Oronoko Township.

• Austin Alfred Zavoral, 27, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to second offense use of methamphetamine and second offense domestic violence and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with credit for 82 days served and \$323 in fines and costs. The incident occurred July 29 in Buchanan Township.



Zavoral

SMC construction students ‘pour it on’

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College Construction Trades Green Technology students collaborated this week with the Building and Grounds Department to pour two sidewalks.

One sidewalk is in front of Thomas F. Jerdon Residence Hall. The other is outside the Student Activity Center of the Charles O. Zollar Building.

“Usually we only get to do one pour, but Maintenance had a need. This provides us with an opportunity to get some meaningful ‘mud’ down,” Associate Professor John Tinker said while waiting for the arrival Oct. 22 of the cement mixer from Dave’s Concrete Products in Lawton.

“We did one for Automotive a couple of years ago, and we did two on the end of the Kairis Building for our storage building and for our solar kiln,” Tinker said. “It gives students buy-in on something that’s going to last. By Zollar they wanted to widen the sidewalk, but they couldn’t get a contractor. Everyone’s too busy.”

Pouring concrete closes out lengthy classroom preparation in building layout and exercises outside the Jan and A.C. Kairis Building squaring up mock buildings and deciding whether to cut or fill the ground to get it to a specified elevation.

“Then we do test concrete pours in the lab,” Tinker said, “and what slump is and why slump is important.”

Concrete slump is a measure of the consistency of fresh concrete before it sets. It’s a test that measures how much a pile of concrete settles after a cone is filled with concrete, then removed.

The distance concrete settles is called the slump, and it’s measured in inches.

Concrete slump is important because it indicates how easy concrete will flow and how workable it is. A higher slump means the concrete is more fluid. A lower slump means it’s less fluid. A slump of about four inches is considered ideal.

Concrete slump determines the



correct water content in a batch.

A batch with too much water will have a high slump and will likely be weak when it’s fully cured. Adding too much water to concrete increases the risk of cracks.

“We did eight test pours in the classroom,” Tinker said. “To give concrete tensile strength, you have to add metal reinforcement — welded wire fabric or rebar.”

“We let pours cure for five days, then test them with increasing amounts of force to see what breaks,” Tinker said. “CONS 114 is intermediate construction practices. Eight-credit, 10-contact-hour class. I have the first-years 2 1/2 hours a day, four days a week. We cover everything from tool safety right up through floor, wall and roof framings for the building we build in the lab. After this, the sawmill.”

“We try to give them good hands-on experience so they can make decisions about their futures. They can say, ‘I didn’t just learn the theory, I applied the theory more than once and I do or do not want to pursue this’ because construction takes in lots of parts.

“You could be a trim carpenter or a framer your whole life. Or you could do concrete flat work or

poured walls. Or shower tiles and backsplashes. Or hardwood floors. I had one student who hates concrete and didn’t like insulation, but framing motivated him.

“CONS 131 and 132, interior and exterior finishes, are hands-on lab/lecture courses that allow them to apply the theory and to get a feel for what they’re doing,” Tinker said. “No-body is meant to be an expert from this program, but they will have solid theoretical footing in construction and experience in theory we discuss. It’s up to them to pursue the passion that comes from that.”

Tinker could be talking about South Haven’s Camila Pereznegron. While watching intently, concrete doesn’t weigh heavily in her career plans.

Pereznegron, who started college in biology for animal science, now wants to start her own construction company for trim carpentry.

In December, “I want to get my CDL (commercial driver’s license). I flipped houses with my dad, which interested me a lot. I’ve been doing this for three years. I’m a hands-on, visual person, so I’m gaining a lot of experience, and I took a small business management course.”

Services

Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

Concrete Work

BRADY CONCRETE
Specializing in:
•*Flat work of all types*
•*Seawalls•Pole Barn Floors*
•*Stamped Concrete*
•*Bobcat Services*
Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service
269-445-3349 or
269-591-0100

Construction

**Michiana Masonry
& Construction**
All your Services needed!
Chimney Cleaning
Insured & Bonded
Senior Discounts
269-362-1566

Handyman Services



BEACON
Specialized Living

NOW HIRING!!!
Full-Time & Part-Time
Direct Care Workers
in Southwest Michigan
•Hourly wages starting at
\$10.25/hr including benefits
APPLY TODAY!!
269-427-8400
beaconspecialized.org

University of Notre
Dame du Lac in
Notre Dame, Indiana,
Notre Dame is an affirmative
action/equal opportunity
University encouraging
diversity.

Merchandise

Antiques & Collectibles

**Yoho's
TREASURE
MARKET**
INDOOR
**FLEA
MARKET**
AND MORE!
ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES
FURNITURE

Booths Available!
Now Renting
from \$75+!
Yoho's Treasure Market!
1420 S 11th st.
Niles, MI 49120
Contact Laura Yoho
574-323-0423

Want to Buy Merchandise

WANTED
STANDING TIMBER
Large Michigan lumber
manufacturer seeking
land owners with 25 or
more mature hardwood
trees to sell
Call: (517)566-8061
qualityhardwoodsinc.com

Pets & Livestock

Livestock

LAGGIS FISH FARM
FISH FOR STOCKING
MOST VARIETIES
Ponds & Lakes
Laggis Fish Farm
(269)628-2056 Days
(269)624-6215 Evenings

Notices

General Notices

**NEED TO SELL SOME
FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS, OR EVEN YOUR
CAR??
CALL THE CLASSIFIEDS AND
ADVERTISE NOW!
269-591-6105**

Community Events

University of Notre
Dame du Lac in
Notre Dame, Indiana,
duLac@nd.edu

Rentals

Wanted To Rent

**Looking for Large
Storage Space in
Niles or Buchanan
Area. All items are
clean, no junk.
Call (269)262-0162**

Transportation

Boats & Watercraft

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum
Deep V 110hp Johnson &
Trailer (269)683-2400



2015 Polar Kraft TX 165

Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.

message.
Pictures available via text.
\$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12
Touring Bike New Carlisle Area.
Good condition. 80k road miles.
\$2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275
or 574-234-8038

Miscellaneous Services

Greta VanFleet Online Auction.
Bid through 11-4-24. Wood
working power tools,
Coleman, Igloo coolers,
carnival glass, Christmas
decorations, antiques, more!
To bid, see other great auctions
visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionSer-
viceLLC.com. Questions, call
1-800-835-0495.

Surplus Online Auction, 11-16-24. Prior years included golf carts, vehicles, plow trucks, loaders, backhoe, gator, trailers, lawn maintenance equipment and more!
CrydermanAuctions.com for photos, to bid. 586-784-8890.

Commercial woodworking,
machinist's tools, reloading
equipment, ammo, tools, farm,
household. Bid @JohnPeck-
Auctions.com Selling? Call
John Peck 989-426-8061.
Offices Charlotte & Gladwin.
Statewide auctions since 1979

BUILDINGS
BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS
State-wide. Prices starting
at - 24x40x10 - \$18,300.00.
30x40x10 -\$20,400.00. Erected
on your site. Call for price not
shown on any size building or
go to www.builtritepolebuilding-smi.com. Or call 989-259-2015
or 989-600-1010.

**1 YEAR! BUILT BEST BARN
IN A RUSH? CALL US!!!! Best
Quality, Best Service, Now In
Our 25TH Year! Over 4,000
Buildings In Michigan Call for
QUOTES License/Insured
989-205-2534**

METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, **HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS!** Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. **AMISH CREW. 800-983-0462.**

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New
with mattress. Made in U.S.A.,
in plastic, with warranty. Retail
cost \$3,995.00, sacrifice for
\$875.00. Call for showing or
delivery: DanDanTheMattress-
Man.com 989-832-1866

MISCELLANEOUS
AMISH BUILT storage sheds
and mini cabins delivered to
your site anywhere in Michigan
Starting at \$2,500.00
mynextbarn.com 989-832-1866

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR BACK SURGERY, SUFFERING AN INFECTION POST-OPERATIVELY and a Bair Hugger (BLUE BLANKET) was used during the surgery, between 2020 - present, you may be entitled to compensation. Attorney Charles H. Johnson

Finally! Satellite Internet With No Hard Data Limits!

And **FREE** Standard Installation!²

Limited Time Offer. Restrictions may apply.



**RANKED
#1**
BY THE FCC
in Delivering Advertised
Download Speeds

FOUR YEARS IN A ROW

3

*"You can get
High-Speed Internet
wherever you live!"*

Plans starting at
\$59⁹⁹
 MO.
 for 24 Mos.

**25 Mbps
Download
Speed**

25 mbps download
and 3 mbps upload¹

**No
Hard Data
Limits**



**Wi-Fi
Built-In**

Connect your wireless
devices at home

HughesNet.

AUTHORIZED RETAILER

CALL TODAY - LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

1-877-271-3236

HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

¹ The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.

² **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.

³ Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: <https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/>

- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.

- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

Miscellaneous Services

1-800-535-5727

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Want a greener lawn? TruGreens your go-to for a tailored lawn care plan. Act now and get 50% off your first service with a purchase of an annual plan. Call us at 1-855-608-1458 to learn more

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to \$600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-324-2582

Put your ad here call 269-591-6105.

Pressure Washing

J&H POWER WASHING
HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS,
DECKS, FENCING,
RV's/MOTOR HOMES.

WHY CALL THE REST
WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?

(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

Roofing and Guttering

Bill's Roof Repair
Residential & Commercial
•Repairs•New Roofs
•Shingles•Flat Roofs
•Metal/Rubber•Flashing
•Chimney Repairs
•Vent Pipes•Gutters•Sidings
Lifetime Warranty on All Labor Performed
Free Estimates
Call Us Now!!
269-591-5700
Visit us at:
billsroofrepair.com
and Facebook!!

MIDWEST ROOFING

Family Owned Since 1984
Lifetime Warranty Shingles
Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers
Call (269) 684-7199

Tree Service

EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE

FREE ESTIMATES!!!
•TOTAL REMOVAL,
TRIMMING & LOT
CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
•STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE,
EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET
TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
PLEASE CALL
574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notice

Abandoned vehicle auction
Road Runner towing and recovery. Thursday October 31 at 8:30 AM
2012 Ford
Vin 1FMCU9DG9CKA35041
1996 GMC
Vin 1GTCS1447TK509201
Contact Road Runner Towing

Public Notices

at 269-429-5080 for viewing locations and times Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM. Social distancing rules still apply bidding start at acquired fees.

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 26, 2024
AV/12 FORD

PUBLIC NOTICE

HOWARD TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 15, 2024

Supervisor Kasprzak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Business Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles. The Pledge to the Flag was recited. Board members present: Wozniak, Gordon, Kasprzak, Conover, Johnson, Daly and Hurlbutt were present.

Board Action
Approved Meeting Agenda.
Approved the minutes of the 09/17/24 Board meeting
Approved the financial report with an ending balance of 1,682,055.03 including a CD
Approved the payment of bills through October 15, 2024
Approved the departmental reports
Copies of 2023-2024 Audit presented to board
Approved Trick or Treat hours to be October 31 from 6p-7:30pm
Approved Darr Rentals for snowplowing for winter 24-25
Adjourn the meeting at 7:28.m.

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 26, 2024
MEETING SYNOPSIS

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by PAUL E. MADDEN, a single man, 22338 US Hwy 12, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112, to OAK MORTGAGE, 125 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis, Michigan 49091 dated August 24, 2017 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on August 28, 2017 in Liber 1127, Page 2278 there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice, for principal and interest the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Six and 23/100 (\$124,486.23) Dollars due on the mortgage and no proceedings having been instituted to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof, where by the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative; Now Therefore, Notice is Hereby Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, the said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises therein described or so much thereof as may be necessary, at pub-

Public Notices

lic auction, to the highest bidder, at the Cass County Courts and Law Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 in the City of Cass, and County of Cass, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit Court in and for said County, on November 6, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and said premises will be sold to pay the amount as aforesaid . then due on said Mortgage together with 5.67% percent interest, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale; which said premises are described as follows, to-wit: The land referred to in this policy, situated in the Township of Ontwa, County of Cass, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Lots 3 and 26 and the West 59 feet of Lots 2 and 27, Adamsport, according to the recorded plat in Liber A of Plats, Page 36, Cass County Records, ALSO, the Northerly 20 feet of Lot 28 and the Northerly 20 feet of the Easterly 16 feet of Lot 27, Adamsport, EXCEPT part of Lots 2 and 27 described as: from the Southeast corner of Lot 2, measure North 71 degrees 11 minutes West along the South line of said Lot, 16 feet; thence measure North 18 degrees 27 minutes East, parallel with the East line of said Lot, 122.15 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence North 10 degrees 11 minutes East, 139.85 feet; thence South 71 degrees 17 minutes East, 20 feet; thence South 18 degrees 27 minutes West, 138.35 feet to the point of beginning. PIN: 14-090-050-002-00 Property Address: 22338 US Hwy 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112 Pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the last day to redeem the Sheriff's Deed will be May 6, 2025, however, if an Affidavit of Abandonment is filed with the Register of Deeds, the last day to redeem will be December 6, 2024, or until the time to provide the notice was required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. If said property is in fact sold at the above-described foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the above listed Mortgagor will be responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Oak Mortgage LLC for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: October 12, 2024 OAK MORTGAGE, LLC Mortgagee HaasCaywood PC By: P. Joseph Haas, Jr. Attorney for OAK MORTGAGE, LLC Business Address: 112 South Monroe Street Sturgis, MI 49091

Niles Daily Star: Oct. 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2, 2024
FC/MADDEN

Put your ad here call 269-591-6105.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CASS COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
60296 M-62, CASSOPOLIS,
MI 49031
(269) 445-4412
ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED
SERVICE
File No.: 2024-000515-CH

DEBBORAH SUE PAOLASSO and DENISE RENE PETERS Co-Trustees of the Bruce Brown and Kathleen Brown Revocable Living Trust, Plaintiffs VS UNKNOWN PARTIES, THEIR HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS WITH CLAIMS TO REAL ESTATE TAX ID: 14-040-001-010-01 Defendants

JOHN R. COLIP (P25250) BUTZEL LONG Attorneys for Plaintiffs 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120 269-591-6915

ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

AT A SESSION of said Court at the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, on 09/19/2024 PRESENT: Honorable Carol M. Bealor, P57068 On Motion of Plaintiff, Debborah Sue Paolasso and Denise Rene Peters, Co-Trustees of the Bruce Brown and Kathleen Brown Revocable Living Trust, by and through its attorney, JOHN R. COLIP Esq., of the law firm of BUTZEL LONG, herein; the Court having read the verified Motion for Substituted Service, and being fully advised in the premises: NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, That Plaintiff's Motion for Substituted Service be, and it is hereby granted, and that service shall be made upon Defendants, in this matter by: (i) posting a copy of this Order with Attachment "A" in the Court-house and in two other public places in LaGrange Township for three continuous weeks; and (ii) publishing this Order with Attachment "A" in the Leader, a newspaper published in Cass County, Michigan, for three consecutive weeks. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That PDQ Services is to post this Oder with Attachment "A" and provide proof of posting in compliance with this Order and file Proof of Posting with this Court. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that mailing a copy of this Order to Unknown Parties, their Heirs and Successors, is not necessary since there is no ascertainable way to determine the address nor the specific identity of those Defendants. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attachment "A" is made a part of this Order and will accompany any posting or publication. Date: 09/19/2024 Carl M Beador 09/19/2024 Prepared by: John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250) 12 Longmeadow Village Drive Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120 269-591-6915

ATTACHMENT "A" TO ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF AC-

Legal Notices

TION

An action to Quiet Title has been filed in the Cass County Circuit Court, in the State of Michigan. This action is filed by Plaintiffs, Debborah Sue Paolasso and Denise Rene Peters, Co- Trustees of the Bruce Brown and Kathleen Brown Revocable Living Trust, against Defendants: Unknown Parties, their Heirs and Successors with Claims to Real Estate Tax ID: 14-040-001- 010-01, and any other persons or entities claiming any right or title to property located in LaGrange Township, Cass County, Michigan and legally described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1, Town 6 South, Range 15 West, which point is 3.75 chains South of the intersection of the West line of Section 1 and the East line of Section 2 with the centerline of O'Keefe Street. Thence Easterly along the South line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 1 to the Dowagiac Creek. Thence Southwesterly to the meander line of the Dowagiac Creek. Thence Southwesterly along said meander line to a point which is South 25° West 2.86 chains to the point of beginning. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in the Cass County Circuit Court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, on or before 28 days from the date of the last publication. If you fail to do so, a Default Judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint filed in this case. You may contact the law offices of BUTZEL LONG, 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100, Niles, MI 49120, 269-591-6915, for any information on this matter. Prepared By: John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250) 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120 269-591-6915

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 12, 19 and 26, 2024
2024-000515 -CH

Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.

We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Leader Publications Classified Marketplace has customizable programs available to fit any budget.

DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
269-591-6105

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING

FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. U-21596

Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval of the application of Indiana Michigan Power Company for approval of a Power Supply Cost Recovery Plan and factors (2025).

The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company Benton Harbor Service Center, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, (800) 311-6424, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: <https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/>.

A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME:

Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM

BEFORE:

Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders

LOCATION:

Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION:

Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAH-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) September 30, 2024 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve its 2025 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan and PSCR factors; 2) authorize I&M to continue the roll-in methodology in connection with its PSCR clause; 3) approve I&M's 2025 PSCR Plan as reasonable and prudent and a PSCR factor of 3.74 mills per kWh for each billing month from January 2025 through December 2025; and 4) grant I&M such other additional relief as it may deem appropriate.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: <https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/>. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mppscdockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mppscdockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by November 7, 2024. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Jason T. Hanselman, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-21596. Statements may be emailed to: mppscdockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

The Utility Consumer Representation Fund has been created for the purpose of aiding in the representation of residential utility customers in various Commission proceedings. Contact the Chairperson, Utility Consumer Participation Board, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, Michigan 48909, for more information.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

INDIANA
MICHIGAN
POWER

An AMP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

U-21596

DEALS ON WHEELS

ZERO DOWN DELIVERS!

ON THE SPOT APPROVAL



2000 FORD RANGER STEPSIDE 4 X 4
XLT, V-6, newer engine and transmission
VERY RARE
Only \$5,900



2009 NISSAN CUBE
Just in!!
Super low miles
Only \$6,900



2008 BUICK LUCERNE CXL
Fresh trade in!! Hard to find V-8 with every option and low miles too!!
Only \$7,900



2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
Just in!!
Every option, super low miles
Only \$9,900



2019 KIA SOUL
Just in! Low miles!
Only \$11,900



2014 INFINITI QX60 AWD
Luxury for less
Only \$14,900



2007 JEEP WRANGLER
It's candy!!
Only \$14,900



2014 HONDA ACCORD LX
Just in!!
Every option with super low miles
Only \$14,900



2014 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
Just in!! Super low miles, drop the top
Only \$14,900



2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X 4
Just in!!
These sell fast...
Only \$19,900



2019 CADILLAC XT5
Just in!!
Fully serviced, perfect condition
Only \$19,900



2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!



2018 FORD EXPLORER SPORT 4 X 4
Just in!!
Perfect with low miles
Only \$21,900



2017 TOYOTA PRIUS PRIME
Only 35,000 miles with every option
50 MPG's!!!
Only \$24,900



2022 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS AWD
Just in!! Only 23,000 miles with every option
Only \$26,900



2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only \$29,900



2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only \$29,900



2020 HONDA PILOT EX-L 4 X 4
Every option, fully serviced
Ready to go
Only \$29,900



2021 CHEVY COLORADO 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, one owner
Only \$29,900



2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 4 X 4
Just in!!
Ecoboost with only 46,000 miles
Only \$33,900



2023 CHRYSLER PACIFICA LIMITED
Like New, Low miles
Only \$33,900



2020 CHEVY EXPRESS EXTENDED CARGO
Just in!!
Very rare. 6.0 litre V-8.
Only 47,000 miles
Only \$34,900



2019 CHEVY BOX TRUCK
20ft, auto, a/c, super low miles
Only \$37,900



2019 RAM 1500 CREW LIMITED 4 X 4
Every option, over \$67,000 new.
Save huge!
Only \$37,900



2020 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA
Just in!!
1 owner with only 46,000 miles
Only \$39,900



2024 CHEVY SILVERADO 4 X 4
Just in!! Only 3,000 miles....Hard to find
Only \$39,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only \$41,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only \$45,900



2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
Only \$49,900



2021 CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV 4 X 4
Just in!! Original MSRP \$118,000
Save Huge!
Only \$84,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR
269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC

